



harvest



At first an idea, then untried reality,
CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE
 this year bore fruit.

At Buck Creek, North Carolina, for example, one could see certain things happening at the Friends' administered camp. A park took shape along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Forest fires were fought, and fire prevention work was done. The nearby community, as well as the Camp, benefited from the abilities of the men. Some men went out on specialized jobs on other projects.

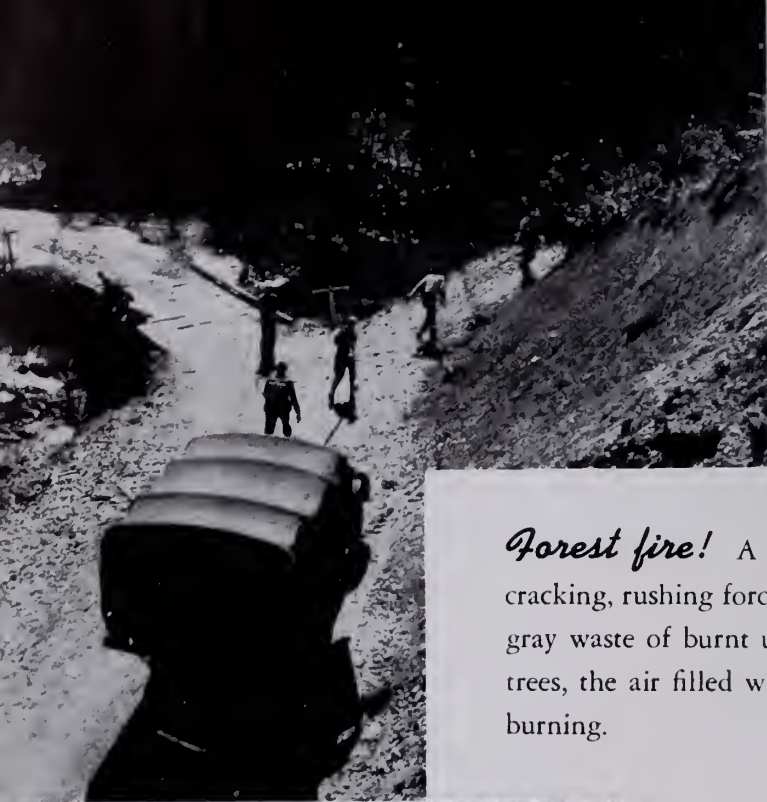
Some things became sure—but there was in many minds a wondering and hoping — that there might be a greater harvest, if certain limitations could be removed . . .



The road through Crabtree Park began with a rough clearing through the woods—now it is a half-mile-long strip of gravel curving gracefully through the woodland.

There is much more road to be built, but what is now finished symbolizes the long hours and hard work it takes for men with tools and machines to shape anything out of the earth.

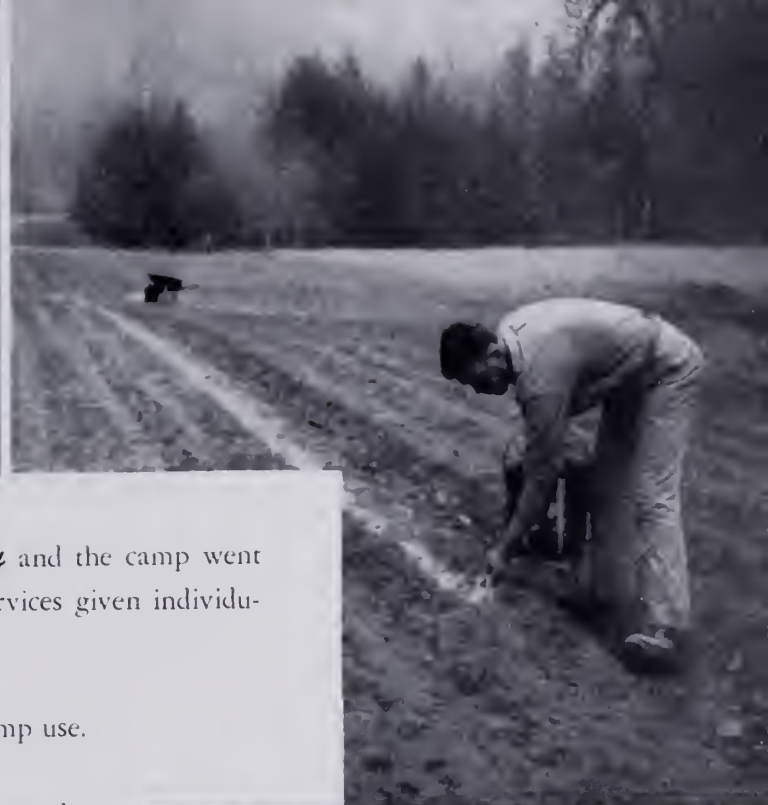




Forest fire! A forest fire is a smoking, cracking, rushing force that leaves an inevitable gray waste of burnt underbrush and blackened trees, the air filled with a sterile odor of after-burning.



In fighting raging forest fires, and in working to prevent them, men at Buck Creek found the joyful feeling of doing an important job for their country. Pictures can not show the roar of burning rhododendron, the cramp of muscles after a strenuous climb with the rake crew, or the beautiful sad light of burning snags at night.



To the community and the camp went some of the harvest in services given individually and in small groups.

Food was grown for camp use.

A traveling library has served the mountain people in the near vicinity.

A singing concert put a new roof on a church in a nearby mountain resort community.

Men from the Camp were attendants at a three-day tonsil clinic for children of a nearby town.



Lost minds

On a June day, some men left Buck Creek. They found in Eastern State Hospital, at Williamsburg, Virginia, new tasks—trying and tragic.

For twelve hours, day or night, each man attended to the needs of a hundred or so mental patients. He talked with the dejected. He cleansed the filthy. He restrained the violent. He treated the sick and the bruised.

Kindness, patience, self-control, determination, proved the qualities of effective mental nursing. No man relied upon physical violence in handling his patients. Not all escaped personal injury. Yet they felt more security in a word of calm authority, in a firm but gentle grasp, than in a weapon of self-defense.

Often the desperate condition of human minds and the seeming hopelessness of cure brings a gnawing sense of futility in the service rendered. Even from the barren soil, however, a harvest comes of diminished suffering, and recovered capacity for normal life.

Special services

Two men transferred to Cheltenham School, a training school for delinquent Negro boys near Baltimore, Maryland. They, too, are testing daily the effectiveness of their way of life as they seek to control vicious impulses and develop qualities of responsibility and mutual consideration among this under-privileged group.



Five men with scientific training left camp to do special research work at the Patuxent Research Refuge near Bowie, Maryland, the only national wildlife experiment station in this country.

Some of the men found such satisfaction in fire fighting that they went to a camp which was set up for that purpose near Lake Tahoe, California.

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This pamphlet was adapted from a book of original photographs and copy prepared by James Fox, who is a member of CPS Camp No. 19, Buck Creek, North Carolina.

The harvest at the Buck Creek Camp is typical of other Civilian Public Service projects. More than 5,500 men, classified by their draft boards as sincere conscientious objectors to war, were engaged at the beginning of 1943 in "work of national importance" as approved under the Selective Training and Service Act. About 5,000 of these were in camps occupied in forestry and soil conservation projects. Five hundred were in other essential civilian services which are inadequately staffed as a result of the war. Openings are increasing for qualified men interested in serving in mental and general hospitals, in reformatories, as "guinea pigs" for medical experimentation, as dairy herd testers, and in training for postwar reconstruction abroad.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE was one of the agencies which agreed in 1940 to assist with the administration of Civilian Public Service for drafted conscientious objectors. The Committee has represented the Religious Society of Friends in fields of social action, since its origin in 1917. At present there are twelve Friends' Civilian Public Service Camps. Men from these camps have gone to nine hospitals and to five other special service units.

Seventeen camps and four hospital units are directed by the Mennonite Central Committee, ten camps and four hospital units by the Brethren Service Committee. Two special service units are managed jointly by all three groups. The Association for Catholic Conscientious Objectors has administered one camp and one hospital unit. The Commission on World Peace of the Methodist Church directs a hospital unit.

The Civilian Public Service program is completely financed by contributions from interested individuals, including the men in camp and their families. Expenses incurred in administering the Friends' camps in 1942 totaled about \$357,000.00 and averaged about \$35.00 a month per man.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

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